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From: David Giambusso and Marie French - POLITICO New York
Sent: Fri 2/24/2017 3:03:30 PM
Subject: POLITICO New York Energy: Cuomo seeks to give DEC greater power — Hoosick Falls settlement vote delayed — Replacing Indian Point

By Marie J. French and David Giambusso | 02/24/2017 10:00 AM EDT

Good morning! You are reading a complimentary synopsis of the POLITICO New York Pro Energy newsletter. Pro subscribers receive a premium version of this newsletter, which includes an enhanced look-ahead and robust analysis of the energy news driving the day, weekdays at 5:45 a.m. Contact us [here](#) to learn more.

DEC'S POWER SURGE - POLITICO New York's Marie J. French: New York is the latest state to take action to combat what many fear will be a stripped down Environmental Protection Agency under President Donald Trump, proposing increased regulatory authority for the Department of Environmental Conservation to address water contamination that threatens public health and go after polluters. "Access to clean drinking water is a fundamental right and we are going to continue to do everything in our power to protect the citizens of our state from polluters and contamination," Cuomo said in a statement. "The proposal put forward in this year's executive budget will ensure that state officials have the tools and resources necessary to effectively respond to water quality issues and ensure clean drinking water for all New Yorkers." While the state has been contemplating giving the DEC stronger powers since the water crisis in Hoosick Falls focused renewed attention on drinking water quality, Cuomo's budget proposal takes on new significance as the Trump administration has promised to curtail the EPA's powers. Trump is reportedly considering steps to roll back a number of Obama-era climate change and environmental rules. Newly confirmed EPA administrator Scott Pruitt is widely viewed by green groups as more concerned with easing regulations on businesses than aggressive public health protection. [Read more here.](#)

HOOSICK FALLS SETTLEMENT VOTE DELAYED - POLITICO New York's Marie J. French: The Hoosick Falls Village Board decided Thursday to postpone discussion of a revised settlement with two companies held responsible for polluting the water here with PFOA. Mayor David Borge said a village trustee had a family health emergency and would not be present at the meeting. That's why he wanted to postpone any action on the \$1 million settlement with the two companies, Saint Gobain and Honeywell. Residents had gathered in the Hoosick Armory in anticipation of the meeting, with some holding cardboard signs that read, "Deeply Polluted Village, Deeply Flawed Settlement" and "Clean Water Doesn't Come Cheap." Borge's announcement drew shouts of outrage from residents. "You're running like a coward," Hoosick Falls resident Desiray Rice yelled as Borge headed toward the door. The revised settlement has drawn criticism from former EPA chief Judith Enck, former state Department of Health official Dr. Howard Freed and a lawyer with Healthy Hoosick Water, an advocacy group. The settlement includes a release of any future claims by the village against the companies over PFOA contamination in the village's existing water supply. [Read more here.](#)

REPLACING INDIAN POINT - POLITICO New York's David Giambusso: In order to replace the power lost by Indian Point's retirement, the state will have to pursue more aggressive targets in energy efficiency and clean energy, according to an analysis commissioned by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Riverkeeper. The analysis, conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, provides several scenarios to replace the nuclear facility's approximate 2,000 megawatts of capacity. The report indicates that by 2022, the year Indian Point is expected to be fully retired, its output can be almost completely replaced with a combination of energy efficiency, hydropower from Quebec, and in-state renewable energy. But the cheapest scenario, according to the report, is energy efficiency. [Read more here.](#)

WE'RE SWIMMING IN GASOLINE - Oilprice.com: " The U.S. East Coast traditionally relies on imports from east Canada and Europe to fill in its gasoline demand. However, these days the gasoline glut in the New York area is so big that traders are scheduling exports of gasoline from the New York Harbor to West Africa and Europe. Shippers plan to export at least two million barrels of gasoline and diesel from New York and Philadelphia in the coming weeks, according to shipping data compiled by Bloomberg. UK supermajor BP and commodity trader Glencore are reportedly some of the companies sending gasoline and diesel to Europe and West Africa, since the fuel glut on the U.S. East Coast has reached its highest on record." [Read more here.](#)

AROUND NEW YORK:

- **An injured snowy owl** has [recovered](#) and was returned to the wild. DEC spokesman Sean Mahar made a [terrible pun](#) about it on Twitter.
- **Local tribal leaders** [called on Mayor Bill de Blasio and Comptroller Scott Stringer](#) to cut ties with banks financing the Dakota pipeline.
- **A (not) brief history** of the Environmental Protection Agency's [work in New York City](#) and what the future could hold.
- **The Millennium Pipeline Company** has [asked federal regulators](#) to let it start cutting down trees despite the company's lack of key permits from the state.
- **A small stretch of Canal Street** may [soon be home](#) to a nine-story, multi-family passive house.
- **A detailed environmental investigation** is [set to begin](#) at a state Superfund site in Hicksville, according to the DEC.
- **Owners of a lighthouse** on Galloo Island [want answers](#) about how a new wind project is going to affect the structure.
- **A coalition of labor and environmental advocates** called for greater investment in wastewater treatment at [a rally in Monroe County](#).
- **Water problems** throughout the state require attention, Time Warner [reports](#).
- **How did the New York congressional delegation** rate on the LCV scorecard, you ask? Well we happen to have the results right [here](#).

MOVING, SHAKING: [Joe Chow](#), power grid control expert and professor of electrical, computer, and systems engineering at [Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute](#), has been elected to the [National Academy of Engineering](#). Chow was elected for his technical contributions to modeling, analysis, and control of large-scale power grids.

GOOD FRIDAY MORNING: Let us know if you have tips, story ideas or life advice. We're always here at dgiambusso@politico.com and mfrench@politico.com.

And if you like this letter, please tell a friend and/or loved one they can sign up [here](#).

CAR MAKERS TARGET FUEL STANDARDS - The New York Times' Neal Boudette: "President Trump has vowed to roll back regulations on business, and automakers are wasting no time in pushing his administration to make good on the promise." [Read more here](#).

BORDER TAX TURMOIL - The Wall Street Journal's Christopher Matthews and Amy Harder: "The linchpin of a corporate tax overhaul proposed by House Republicans would mark a massive change for the U.S. oil and gas industry and has companies frantically studying whether to get behind it, fight it or stay on the sidelines." [Read more here](#).

JARED AND IVANKA KILLED CLIMATE LANGUAGE - The Wall Street Journal's Amy Harder and Peter Nicholas: "At the request of President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and his wife, Ivanka Trump, language critical of a global climate deal was struck from an executive order that Mr. Trump is planning to sign soon, according to multiple people familiar with the move." [Read more here](#).

TRUMP'S CLEAN POWER PLAN ROADMAP - Vox's Brad Plumer: "In the coming days, President Donald Trump is widely expected to sign an executive order that will kick off the long, difficult process of dismantling President Barack Obama's signature climate policy - the Clean Power Plan." [Read more here](#).

MORE CALIFORNIA DEFIANCE - POLITICO California's David Siders: Needling President Donald Trump and bracing for a rollback of Obama-era environmental protections, Democrats in the nation's most populous state are launching a pre-emptive strike." [Read more here](#).

EXXON CEO KIND OF LIKES A CARBON TAX - Bloomberg's Joe Carroll: "In his first blog post since succeeding Rex Tillerson, the new head of Exxon Mobil Corp. focused on climate change, calling for a carbon tax to discourage use of polluting fuels. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Darren Woods said a revenue-neutral carbon tax 'would promote

greater energy efficiency and the use of today's lower-carbon options, avoid further burdening the economy, and also provide incentives for markets to develop additional low-carbon energy solutions for the future." [Read more here.](#)

NUCLEAR, NUCLEAR EVERYWHERE - E&E News' Jeffrey Tomich: "FirstEnergy Corp. said legislation will soon be introduced in its home state that would subsidize its two nuclear plants on Lake Erie. " [Read more here.](#)

DAKOTA CAMP CLEARED - The Associated Press: "Authorities have declared a Dakota Access pipeline protest camp in North Dakota officially cleared after going through the camp and arresting the last remaining holdouts." [Read more here.](#)

SAUDI REALITY CHECK - Bloomberg's Javier Blas and Wael Mahdi: "Saudi Arabia has said oil giant Saudi Aramco is worth more than \$2 trillion, enough to consume Apple Inc. twice, and still have room for Google parent Alphabet Inc." [Read more here.](#)

GOING GREEN IN COPENHAGEN - The New York Times' Martin Selsoe Sorensen: "Perched in his centrally located office, Laust Joen Jakobsen looks out onto a small plaza, a rooftop basketball court and a grass bed that will be lush with flowers by the summer." [Read more here.](#)

CLEAN AC IS HARD TO FIND - InsideClimate News' Zahra Hirji: "When nearly 200 countries agreed last October to dramatically reduce their reliance on climate change-polluting chemicals called hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in air conditioning and refrigeration, the hunt for alternatives was already underway." [Read more here.](#)

FUTURES:

- **Oil prices settled at their highest level** since 2015 due to encouraging news about stockpiles, The Wall Street Journal [reports.](#)

- **Natural gas settled a little higher** also on stockpile data, The Journal [reports.](#)

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